

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A conveyance unit configured and arranged to be used in an image forming apparatus that comprises an image forming part for forming a visible image on a transfer material and an internal eject part provided above the image forming part within said image forming apparatus, wherein said conveyance unit is provided on a conveyance path from said image forming part to said internal eject part,

said conveyance unit comprising:

15 a transfer device that transfers the visible image, which is formed on an image carrier, onto the transfer material;

a fixing device that fixes the visible image transferred to the transfer material; and

20 an upward conveyance part that conveys and ejects the transfer material having a fixed visible image to the internal eject part,

wherein said transfer device, said fixation device and said upward conveyance part are incorporated 25 into a single unit.

2. The conveyance unit as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said upward conveyance part extends, when
situated in said image forming apparatus, upwardly from
an end of said conveyance unit and along a side of said
5 internal eject part.

10 3. The conveyance unit as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the entire conveyance unit is configured and
arranged to be removable from an interior of an
apparatus body of said image forming apparatus through a
front side of said apparatus body.

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20 4. An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image forming part that forms a visible
image on a transfer material;
an internal eject part provided above the
image forming part within said image forming apparatus;
and
25 a conveyance unit provided on a conveyance

path from said image forming part to said internal eject part,

wherein said conveyance unit comprises:

a transfer device that transfers the visible
5 image, which is formed on an image carrier, onto the
transfer material;

a fixing device that fixes the visible image
transferred to the transfer material; and

10 an upward conveyance part that conveys and
ejects the transfer material having a fixed visible
image to the internal eject part,

wherein said transfer device, said fixation
device and said upward conveyance part are incorporated
into a single unit.

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5. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
20 claim 4, wherein said upward conveyance part extends,
when situated in said image forming apparatus, upwardly
from an end of said conveyance unit and along a side of
said internal eject part.

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6. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
claim 4, wherein the entire conveyance unit is
configured and arranged to be removable from an interior
of an apparatus body of said image forming apparatus
5 through a front side of said apparatus body.

10 7. A structure of a front-side plate frame
serving as a reinforcing member to reinforce a front
side of an image forming apparatus that comprises:

an image forming part that forms a visible
image on a transfer material;

15 an internal eject part provided above the
image forming part within said image forming apparatus;
and

20 a conveyance unit provided on a conveyance
path from said image forming part to said internal eject
part,

wherein said conveyance unit comprises:

a transfer device that transfers the visible
image, which is formed on an image carrier, onto the
transfer material;

25 a fixing device that fixes the visible image

transferred to the transfer material; and
an upward conveyance part that conveys and
ejects the transfer material having a fixed visible
image to the internal eject part,

5 wherein said transfer device, said fixation
device and said upward conveyance part are incorporated
into a single unit, and

 wherein said front-side plate frame is
provided along a periphery of a front-side opening of
10 said image forming part and has a protruding part
extending upward along a side of said internal eject
part and has an opening corresponding to an outer
configuration of said conveyance unit.

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 8. The structure of the front-side plate
frame as claimed in claim 7, wherein said front-side
20 plate frame is interposed between component parts of a
frame member constituting an apparatus body of said
image forming apparatus.

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9. The structure of the front-side plate frame as claimed in claim 8, wherein said component parts of the frame member are pipe frames serving as columns of said frame member.

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10. The structure of the front-side plate
10 frame as claimed in claim 7, wherein a reinforcing member is attached to said front-side plate frame at an area corresponding to a root of said protruding part, where a stress is concentrated when a load is applied to said front-side plate frame.

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11. The structure of the front-side plate
20 frame as claimed in claim 10, wherein said reinforcing member is an L-shape bracket.

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12. The structure of the front-side plate frame as claimed in claim 10, wherein an outer front cover covering the front side of said image forming part is configured to be a double door structure so that a
5 center line of the double door passes through the root of said protruding part, and said reinforcing member is a bracket having a magnet for locking the outer front cover.

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13. The structure of the front-side plate frame as claimed in claim 12, further comprising an
15 interlock mechanism provided to said bracket so as to detect opening and closing of said outer front cover and control an operation of said image forming apparatus.

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14. An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image forming part that forms a visible image on a transfer material;
25 an internal eject part provided above the

image forming part within said image forming apparatus;
a conveyance unit provided on a conveyance path from said image forming part to said internal eject part, said conveyance unit including: a transfer device
5 that transfers the visible image, which is formed on an image carrier, onto the transfer material; a fixing device that fixes the visible image transferred to the transfer material; and an upward conveyance part that conveys and ejects the transfer material having a fixed
10 visible image to the internal eject part, wherein said transfer device, said fixation device and said upward conveyance part are incorporated into a single unit; and
a front-side plate frame serving as a reinforcing member to reinforce a front side of said
15 image forming apparatus, said front-side plate frame provided along a periphery of a front-side opening of said image forming part and having a protruding part extending upward along a side of said internal eject part and having an opening corresponding to an outer
20 configuration of said conveyance unit.

15. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
claim 14, wherein said front-side plate frame is
interposed between component parts of a frame member
constituting an apparatus body of said image forming
5 apparatus.

16. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
10 claim 15, wherein said component parts of the frame
member are pipe frames serving as columns of said frame
member.

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17. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
claim 14, wherein a reinforcing member is attached to
said front-side plate frame at an area corresponding to
20 a root of said protruding part, where a stress is
concentrated when a load is applied to said front-side
plate frame.

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18. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
claim 17, wherein said reinforcing member is an L-shape
bracket.

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19. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
claim 17, wherein an outer front cover covering the
front side of said image forming part is configured to
be a double door structure so that a center line of the
double door passes through the root of said protruding
part, and said reinforcing member is a bracket having a
magnet for locking the outer front cover.
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20. The image forming apparatus as claimed in
claim 19, further comprising an interlock mechanism
provided to said bracket so as to detect opening and
closing of said outer front cover and control an
operation of said image forming apparatus.